



Winter Driving Safety

Keep your experience with winter driving from becoming a crash-course in what not to do!

Winter driving can be tricky and often dangerous.

Well-paved roads, snow tires and 4-wheeled drive can't take the place of careful driving habits and a healthy respect for the hazards around you. Help yourself take on the challenges of winter driving by learning some safe driving tips:

Before Your Trip

- Give yourself plenty of extra time to get to your destination. Posted speed limits are set for perfect conditions. The less perfect the conditions, the slower your speed should be.
- Clear your windows, hood, roof and trunk of snow before starting out. Snow flying off your car can interfere with your vision or the vision of other drivers.
- Be sure your tires are properly inflated and have enough tread for traction in snow and to reduce the risk of your vehicle hydroplaning on water on the roadway.
- Putting extra weight in the trunk or truck bed can give you better traction, but it comes at the expense of steering control and longer stopping distances. If you use extra weight, always properly secure the load.
- Before leaving, tell a friend where you are going, your planned route and when you will return. If you fail to return on time, they should inform the police and not go looking for you themselves. If the roadway was too bad for you to drive, it's probably too bad for them as well.



While On the Road

- Wear safety belts and make sure children are using safety seats.
- Drive with low-beam headlights on in snow or fog. Keep your car's lights clean and free of snow. Dirty headlights can cut visibility by 50 % or more.
- Maintain at least three times the normal following distance from vehicles in front of you on snow or ice. If you are being followed too closely, maintain extra distance behind the vehicle ahead so that you can slow down or brake gradually.
- If your car starts to slide on the ice, ease your foot off the accelerator, do not touch the brake and steer in the direction the rear of the vehicle is skidding.
- Winter driving can be a stressful situation. If another driver does something you don't like, remain calm and let it go. You'll be more successful if your attention is on the road.
- When braking on snow and ice, your car's owner's manual will usually recommend the braking technique most effective for your vehicle.



Safety Tips to help "Keep YOU in Control" from your BSB Safety Office
"YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTION TO SAFETY"

